revenue was due mainly to the reckless denudation of the forests. Though the area of the forests was considerable, being over 2,100 square miles, the revenue was not adequate, being a little over 13 lakhs of rupees per year. The proportion between the area of the forests and the annual revenue was comparatively much better in the sister States of Mysore and Cochin. When compared with Travancore, the proportion of expenditure to revenue was more favourable in Mysore, Baroda and Cochin. The net revenue from "Forests" in 1068 and in 1091 was almost equal. That would show that there was no material increase under net revenue. The forest officers of the present day did not sufficiently tour about in the interior forests and did not devise measures for the development of the economic resources of the forests. Sufficient attention was not being paid to the scientific working and management of the forests, preparation of working plans, etc. The Divisional Forest Officers should be asked to submit quarterly reports showing the places inspected by them, the timber or other forest produce found there, their uses, the probable revenue derivable therefrom, their cost of transport, etc. The department should be entrusted to an officer specially qualified in Forest Economics. Promotions in the higher ranks should not go by seniority alone but by competency in developing the forest resources. More money should be spent for opening up the forests. The Member also prayed that export duty on timber might be revived. There should be a rule that the men selected and sent out for special training in the Forest Department, or for that matter in any other department, should be natives of the country.

Dewan.—There is a distinct provision to this effect in the rules for the grant of foreign scholarships.

The Member then made the following suggestions :—

(1) Swampy areas fit for cultivation within settled reserves, such as the Kodumon Reserve, should be disafforested and registered in the names of private individuals.

(2) The pay of the Heads of Departments should not exceed that of a High Court Judge.

(3) The Government should not encourage the registry of lands in the State in the names of wealthy outsiders for speculative purposes. The high rates of *tharavila* precluded the people of the State from getting lands registered in their names.

(4) The Government should show to the ryots, by demonstration and experiment, that *punja* and *cherikal* lands could be cultivated annually, instead of at intervals of 5 to 12 years.

(5) The revenue of the State should be equitably distributed for the benefit of all taluks. Special allotments should be provided for affording irrigation facilities and for encouraging special industries.

(6) The Government had set apart about 8 lakhs of rupees for a Sinking Fund. That sum should be invested in the Co-operative Societies which were sadly in need of funds.

(7) Taxation should not be confined to land-holders alone, but other people, such as Vakils and merchants, should be required to contribute a share.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

II. MAIN HEADS OF REVENUE.

(1) Land Revenue.

4. Need for the modification of the Rules regarding the leasing of trees planted on *poramboke* lands by private individuals and the registry of *poramboke* lands not required for public purposes.

Mr. K. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Tovala taluk) said that the subject was brought up at the 3rd, 5th, 6th and 12th sessions of the Assembly. He stated

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that Government Order, No. 1997, dated 24th Kanni 1057, encouraged the people to plant trees on the banks of rivers and tanks and that several of such trees had been planted and enjoyed by them. The rules under Regulation II of 1067, dated 27th Karkadagom 1074, authorised the registry of such trees on *kuthagapattom* in the names of the holders for the assessed tax without limit of time. According to the present rules, the trees standing on *poramboke* lands, which had not already been registered, should be disposed of by public auction, while the trees standing on lands in the possession of any Government Department should be made over to that department and then disposed of in auction. The above rules, the Member submitted, were disadvantageous both to the Government and to the people alike. The rules were not clear as to whether they applied to the trees planted up by the Government, or to those standing on lands acquired by the Government, or to the spontaneous growth on *porambokes*, or to the trees planted by the people on Government lands. Many such trees in the Kalkulam, Eraniel and Vilavancode taluks had been registered in the names of the holders along with the land. But the representations of the people of Tovala and Agastiswaram taluks to register the trees alone in their names without the land had not been favourably considered by the Government. The Member, therefore, prayed—

(1) that such trees be permanently registered in the names of the holders and that a tax of 4 cash be imposed on a tree;

(2) that the Tahsildars be empowered to register, in the names of people for definite periods, *porambokes* lying adjacent to their registered holdings, which were not required either for the communal requirements of the people or for the Government; and

(3) that people be allowed to plant trees on river sides, tank sides, road sides and other open spaces.

The Member added that, by such registry, the Government would get an annual revenue of not less than Rs. 20,000.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

5. Desirability of granting the same relief to the owners of registered holdings on the banks of the Vamanapuram and Karamanai rivers as was granted to those on the banks of the Neyyar and Killiyar rivers.

Mr. K. Narayana Pillai (Member, Nedumangad taluk) said that, in the recent Survey, many lands on the banks of the Vamanapuram and Karamanai rivers were treated as *porambokes*, that there were many old improvements on such lands and that the lands with the fruit-bearing trees thereon were being enjoyed by the holders in the firm belief that they were included in their *ayacut* holdings. The trees on such lands had been taxed in the recent Settlement and the tax was being recovered by the Government. To treat the lands on the banks of the above two rivers as *porambokes* now would work real hardship to the ryots. When the trees, etc., on *porambokes* now on the banks of the Killiyar were similarly treated, a deputation from the Nedumangad Taluk Association complained to the Government, with the result that the proceedings started were ordered to be stopped. Similar lands on the banks of the Neyyar were ordered to be registered in the names of the holders. The Member, therefore, prayed that the treatment accorded to the lands on the banks of the Neyyar be extended to those on the banks of the Vamanapuram and Karamanai rivers.

Dewan's reply.—If the lands on the banks of the Vamanapuram and Karamanai rivers, mentioned by the Member, are similarly circumstanced as those on the banks of the Neyyar and Killiyar rivers, the concessions granted to the latter will be extended to them. A petition has been received from the inhabitants of the Nedumangad taluk in respect of the lands on the banks of the Karamanai river and this has been referred to the Peishkar for report. The representations of the Member

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